

*James B. DONOVAN*  
*John B. ...*

# Kin of PWs Fear Castro

## Double Cross on Release

By JOHN D. HARRIS

Hearst Headline Service Special to N. Y. Journal American

MIAMI, Oct. 9.—As efforts to free the 1,113 Bay of Pigs invasion prisoners approached their agonizing climax today, a single question formed here on thousands of lips:

“Will they come?”

Miami, minutes by air from Castro's Cuba, is awaiting the arrival of the little band of heroes in a state of fever-pitched excitement.

But fingers were being crossed tightly. More than

50,000 anxious friends and relatives were praying that Cuban dictator Fidel Castro would not pull a last-minute doublecross on the deal.

It was considered possible Castro might try to impose conditions on the prisoners' return that would be found unacceptable by the U. S. Government.

Most of the 50,000 friends and relatives were expected to jam Miami International Airport if and when the invasion survivors arrive.

Large numbers of Cubans, mostly women, took up positions in and around the airport early in the day.

In addition, groups of plainclothes police officers could be seen scanning the faces of passengers disembarking from flights originating throughout the U. S.

Occasionally an officer would glance at a photograph in his hand and compare it with a face among the arrivals.

Plans have been made to enable the prisoners to make a brief appearance before the crowd at the airfield and then go by bus to a nearby processing center.

Prisoners requiring medical treatment will be

taken to Mercy and Jackson Memorial Hospitals.

New York attorney James B. Donovan and Castro were reported locked in a last-minute huddle over the deal—an arrangement under which Cuba will receive from \$30,000,000 to \$60,000,000 worth of food and medicine in exchange for the men who stormed the beach at Playa Giron April 17, 1961.

The ransom is reportedly available in the U. S. at cut-rate manufacturers' costs. It would be shipped

to Cuba at a cost comparable to prevalent market rates in the Caribbean island today.

Most categories of medicine and food may be exported legally to Cuba. But it is possible the ransom may include some commodities produced under U. S. Government subsidies.

This could add a diplomatically touchy hint of official government participation in the exchange. It is just this type of thin ice on which the exchange could proceed smoothly or tragically fall through.

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### Donovan Sends Hopeful Word

An optimistic telephone call on the freeing of prisoners from Cuba, was received here today from atty. James B. Donovan.

Robert A. Morse, assistant general counsel for the Cuban Families Committee for the Liberation of Prisoners of War, had the following message from Mr. Donovan.

“I'm looking forward to an early resolution of the problem, and I hope to have something to say, later today or tomorrow. I am highly optimistic.”

Families of the 1,113 Bay of Pigs invasion of April, 1961, seemed confident.

### TERMS OF DEAL

Persons familiar with the negotiations Mr. Donovan is conducting with Fidel Castro understood the deal to free the prisoners calls for payments in food and medicine, worth \$62,000,000.

Final talks are due in Havana today.

Exactly where the prisoners will be sent, whether to Miami or to a neutral Latin-American country, was not yet clear. Pan-American Airlines said, at its Miami office, there had been no arrangements made for an air lift.

Legal associates of Mr. Donovan would travel by sea to Miami.